

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00921 201029Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02 /086 W
-----102721 201035Z /20
O R 201001Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6857
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0921

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, LE, US
SUBJECT: REPORTED PRESSCONFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY

1. RIGHTIST LE REVEIL ON FEBRUARY 18, WITHOUT QUOTING
SOURCE, CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE SAYING THAT SECRETARY OF
STATE VANCE HAD SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 17
WITH 20 ARAB JOURNALISTS THAT "THE UNITED STATES IS READY
TO DEFEND THE ARMY AND INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON." LE
REVEIL ARTICLE CONTAINED WHAT IT PRESENTED AS DIRECT
QUOTATIONS OF A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, INCLUDING
THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE:

QUOTE: QUESTION - THE LEBANESE ARMY, WHICH AMERICA SUPPORTS
AND AIDS, IS NOW RECEIVING BLOWS FROM ANOTHER ARMY. WHAT
IS THE POSITION OF THE USA?

ANSWER - UP TO NOW, AMERICA HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY REQUEST
OR PROPOSAL FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE
IT TO KNOW THE CAUSES OF THE LATEST AGGRESSION AND WHO
TOOK THE INITIATIVE. (THE JOURNALISTS HAD THE CLEAR IMPRESSION
THAT MR. VANCE WISHED TO SHOW THE LACK OF INTEREST MANI-
FESTED BY THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES IN OFFICIALLY INFORMING
WASHINGTON ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND IS HAPPENING IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00921 201029Z

LEBANON). UNQUOTE.

2. THE NEXT DAY, FEBRUARY 19, ARABIC DAILY AN NAHAR
CARRIED LONGER VERSION OF SIMILAR STORY, CITING "SENIOR
U.S. OFFICIAL" AS THE SOURCE AND USING INDIRECT DIS-
COURSE, NOT DIRECT QUOTES. AN NAHAR VERSION CONTAINED
ONLY GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT LEBANON AND CONCENTRATED

PRIMARILY ON AREA MATTERS.

3. COMMENT: LE REVEIL VERSION CAUSED SOME CONCERN AMONG LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SARKIS. AMBASSADOR IS CALLING ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AT 0930 LOCAL TIME ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, AND MAY BE ASKED ABOUT THIS STORY EITHER THEN OR SUBSEQUENTLY. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TEXT OF BACKGROUNDER IF AVAILABLE AND/OR ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEPT. CAN PROVIDE.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT00921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780077-0497
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780235/aaaabdqv.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a1561d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3542968
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED PRESSCONFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY
TAGS: SOPN, LE, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a1561d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014